



Express Mail Label No. EV32818479US
Date of Deposit: May 22, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: 23239-301B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Ellington, *et al.*
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/666,870 EXAMINER: Jon D. Epperson, Ph.D.
FILING DATE: September 20, 2000 ART UNIT: 1639
FOR: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR IDENTIFYING ALLOSTERICALLY REGULATED RIBOZYMES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 22, 2003
Boston, Massachusetts

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This paper is in response to the January 29, 2003 Office Action (Paper No. 18) in the above-identified patent application. With a one-month extension, this response is due on or before May 29, 2003. A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time is submitted herewith, along with the appropriate fee. Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 23239-301B (ARCH-301B).

In the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 2, line 1:

B¹ --This application claims priority to provisional patent application U.S.S.N. 60/212,097, filed June 15, 2000, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

Please delete the paragraph at page 2, lines 5-8.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 9-16 with the following paragraph:

B² --Ribozymes, or RNA enzymes, are oligonucleotides of RNA that can act like enzymes by catalyzing the cleavage of RNA molecules. Generally, ribozymes have the ability to behave like an endonuclease. The location of the cleavage site is highly sequence specific, approaching the sequence specificity of DNA restriction endonucleases. By varying conditions, ribozymes can also act as polymerases or dephosphorylases. --